

Appl. No. 10/776,048
Amdt. Dated 01/06/05
Reply to Office Action of 10/06/05

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An apparatus for attracting and holding rodents within a confined area, said apparatus comprising:

a cage formed from durable material and having a cavity sufficient for holding a plurality of rodents therein, said cage including oppositely spaced end portions having a plurality of apertures formed therein for defining an entrance path into said cage respectively, said cage further including a top surface having an aperture formed therein for defining a path through which bait may be deposited into said cage, said cage further including a bottom surface including a door pivotally attached to said cage for allowing a user to access rodents trapped within said cage, said cage further including a plurality of trap doors pivotally connected to said cage and adjacent said opposed end portions for causing rodents to enter the cavity and become trapped therein as the rodents move towards the bait.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plurality of trap doors comprise:

a plurality of outer end portions;

a plurality of spring members for connecting said plurality of outer end portions to said cage so that as rodents enter said apparatus through the entrance paths and move inwardly towards the bait said plurality of trap doors will pivot downwardly about said plurality of outer end portions thereof and thereafter pivot upwardly to a resting position after rodents enter the cavity; and

a plurality of stop members connected to said cage adjacent said plurality of trap doors and for preventing same from pivoting upwardly beyond a resting position.

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3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bait path defined by the top surface aperture is disposed in a substantially vertical direction medially of said opposed end portions of said cage so that bait can be positioned between the entrance paths.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cavity is disposed below the entrance paths so that rodents cannot escape from the cavity after entering therein.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of handles secured to said cage for assisting a user to transport same between remote locations.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cage is formed from wire mesh material.

7. (Original) An apparatus for attracting and holding rodents within a confined area, said apparatus comprising:

a cage formed from durable material and having a cavity sufficient for holding a plurality of rodents therein, said cage including oppositely spaced end portions having a plurality of apertures formed therein for defining an entrance path into said cage respectively, said cage further including a top surface having an aperture formed therein for defining a path through which bait may be deposited into said cage, said cage further including a bottom surface including a door pivotally attached to said cage for allowing a user to access rodents trapped within said cage, said cage further including a plurality of trap doors pivotally connected to said cage and adjacent said opposed end portions for causing rodents to enter the cavity and become trapped therein as the rodents move towards the bait, said plurality of trap doors comprising
a plurality of outer end portions;

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a plurality of spring members for connecting said plurality of outer end portions to said cage so that as rodents enter said apparatus through the entrance paths and move inwardly towards the bait said plurality of trap doors will pivot downwardly about said plurality of outer end portions thereof and thereafter pivot upwardly to a resting position after rodents enter the cavity; and a plurality of stop members connected to said cage adjacent said plurality of trap doors and for preventing same from pivoting upwardly beyond a resting position.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the bait path defined by the top surface aperture is disposed in a substantially vertical direction medially of said opposed end portions of said cage so that bait can be positioned between the entrance paths.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the cavity is disposed below the entrance paths so that rodents cannot escape from the cavity after entering therein.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising:
a plurality of handles secured to said cage for assisting a user to transport same between remote locations.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said cage is formed from wire mesh material.

12. (Original) An apparatus for attracting and holding rodents within a confined area, said apparatus comprising:

a cage formed from wire mesh material and having a cavity sufficient for holding a plurality of rodents therein, said cage including oppositely spaced end portions having a plurality of apertures formed therein for defining an entrance path into said cage respectively, said cage further including a top surface having an aperture formed therein

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for defining a path through which bait may be deposited into said cage, said cage further including a bottom surface including a door pivotally attached to said cage for allowing a user to access rodents trapped within said cage, said cage further including a plurality of trap doors pivotally connected to said cage and adjacent said opposed end portions for causing rodents to enter the cavity and become trapped therein as the rodents move towards the bait, said plurality of trap doors comprising

a plurality of outer end portions;

a plurality of spring members for connecting said plurality of outer end portions to said cage so that as rodents enter said apparatus through the entrance paths and move inwardly towards the bait said plurality of trap doors will pivot downwardly about said plurality of outer end portions thereof and thereafter pivot upwardly to a resting position after rodents enter the cavity; and

a plurality of stop members connected to said cage adjacent said plurality of trap doors and for preventing same from pivoting upwardly beyond a resting position.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the bait path defined by the top surface aperture is disposed in a substantially vertical direction medially of said opposed end portions of said cage so that bait can be positioned between the entrance paths.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the cavity is disposed below the entrance paths so that rodents cannot escape from the cavity after entering therein.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:
a plurality of handles secured to said cage for assisting a user to transport same between remote locations.